THE FIRST EXAMINER...

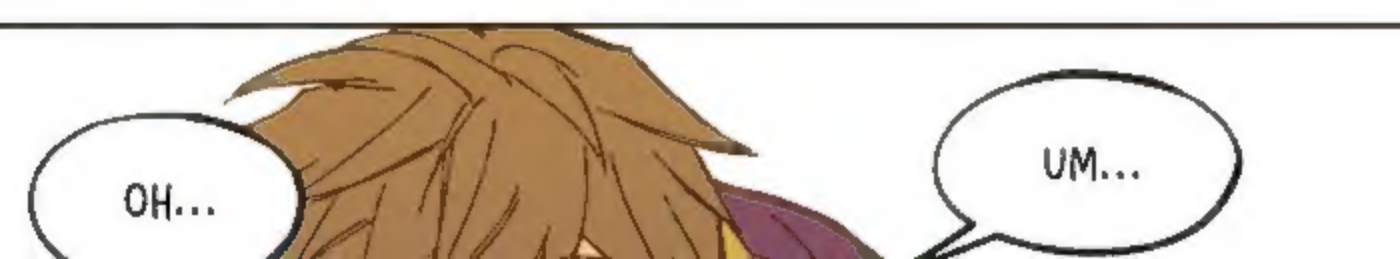
...IS THE DRAGON KING OF THE WESTERN SEA.

HUH...?
DRAGON KING...?
A KING...?

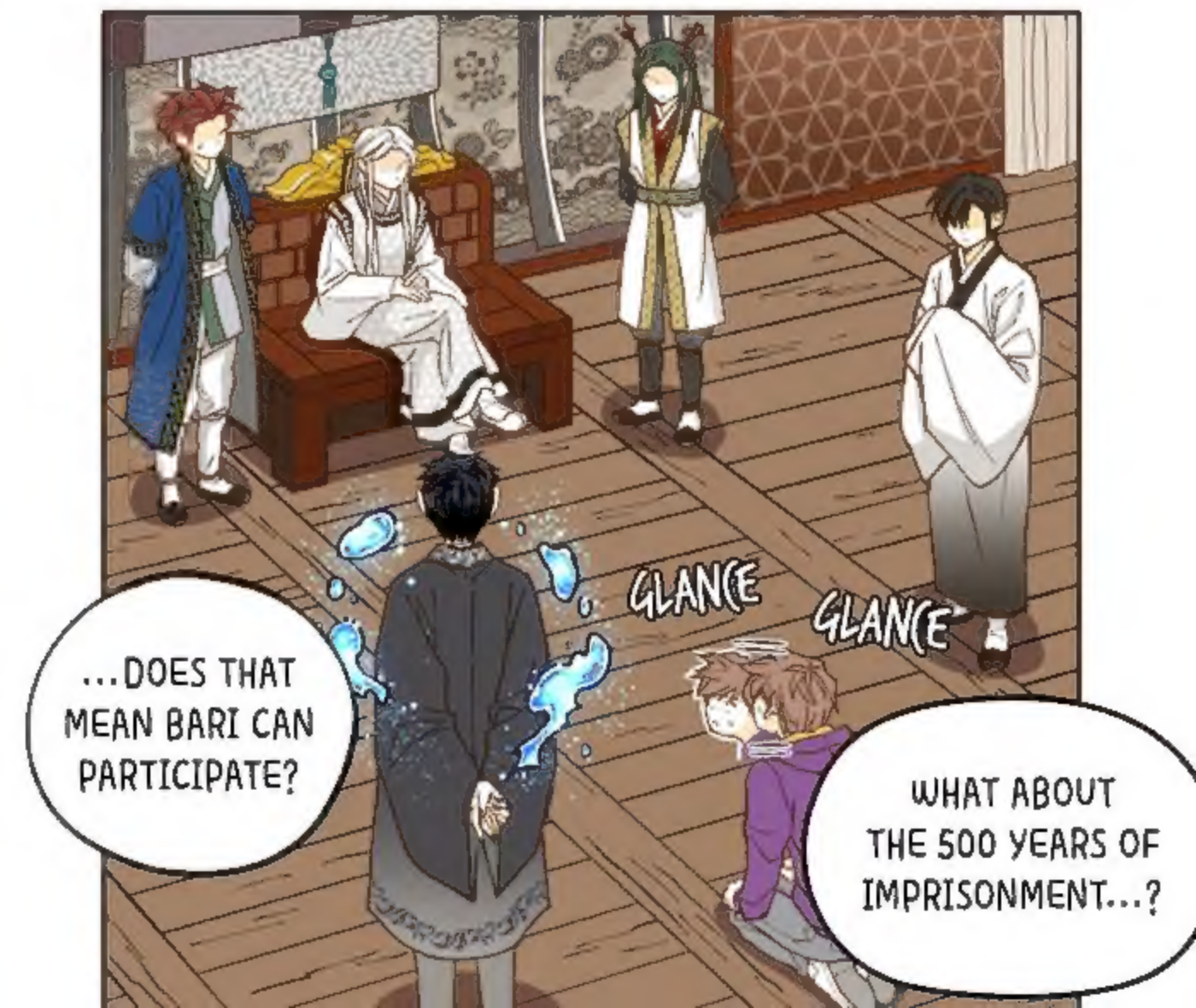
GRIN

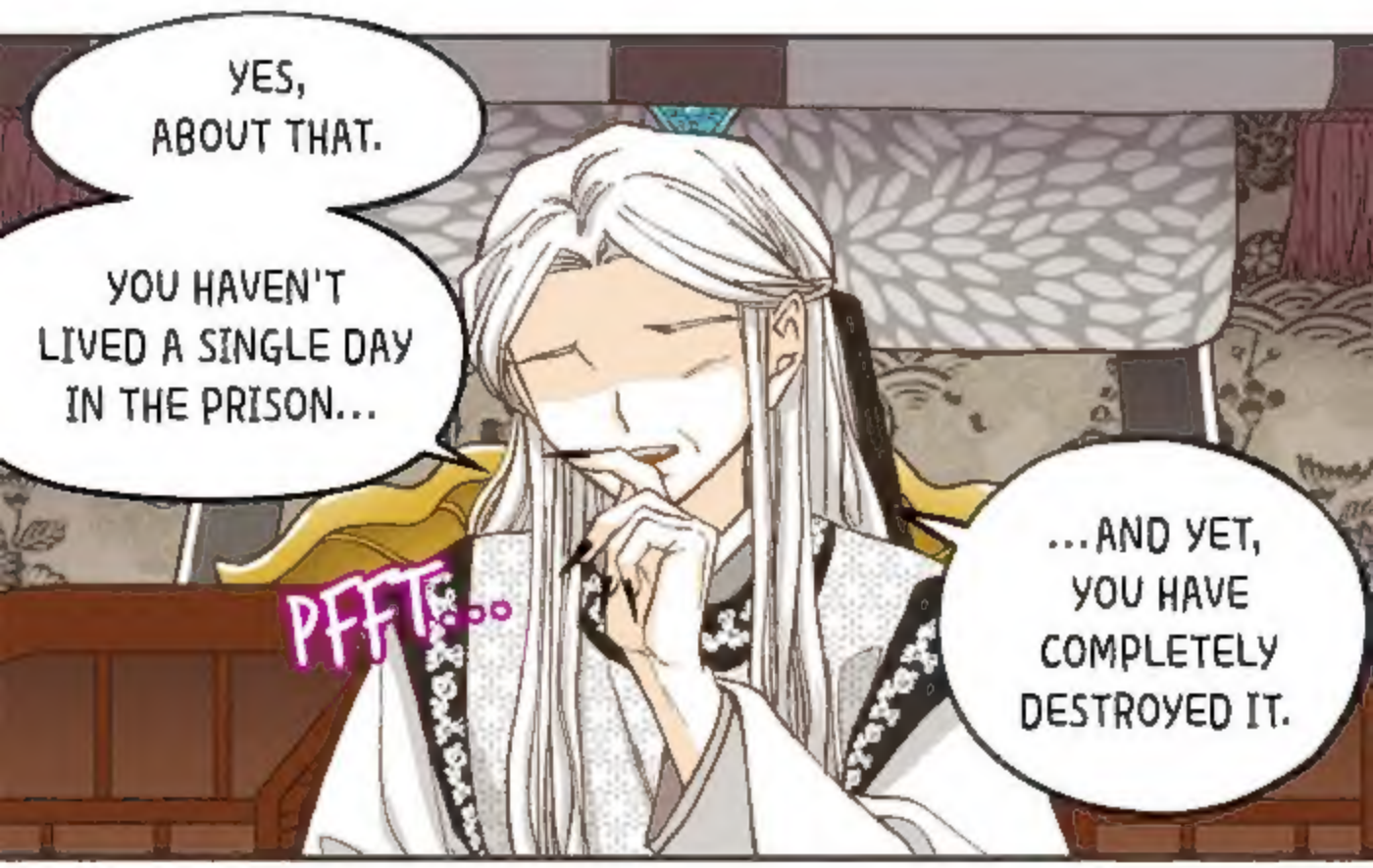
THE DRAGON KINGS OF THE EAST SEA AND SOUTH SEA...
...HAVE ALSO BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CHEONRYONG TO OVERSEE THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON EXAM.

SO CONSIDER MY EXAM AS A PRELIMINARY TEST.
I HOPE YOU TRY YOUR BEST.


OH...
UM...

THEN...


...DOES THAT MEAN BARI CAN PARTICIPATE?
GLANCE
GLANCE
WHAT ABOUT THE 500 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT...?


YES,
ABOUT THAT.
YOU HAVEN'T
LIVED A SINGLE DAY
IN THE PRISON...
PFFT...
...AND YET,
YOU HAVE
COMPLETELY
DESTROYED IT.

THERE'S NO PLACE TO LOCK YOU UP ANYMORE.
AND YOU'VE BEEN PUNISHED ALREADY.
...!
SO YOU MAY FOCUS ON THE EXAM FOR NOW.

R-REALLY?
ARE YOU SUSPENDING

THE SENTENCE?
WELL, IF YOU REALLY WISH TO CARRY IT OUT, I CAN CERTAINLY ARRANGE THAT.
NO! THAT'S FINE, MA'AM! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

UM... BUT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I'VE ALREADY BEEN PUNISHED?
CONFUSED
I DON'T REMEMBER...

YOUR LATE START IS THE PUNISHMENT. THE OTHER IMOOGI STARTED TWO DAYS AGO.
CHEONRYONG JUST WANTED TO SCARE YOU GUYS A LITTLE. HER KIND NATURE WOULD NEVER PERMIT HER TO BE CRUEL.

A LATE START...?
BUT WHAT ARE WE LATE FOR...?
THE FIRST EXAM.

IT BEGAN...

...I BEG YOUR
PARDON?

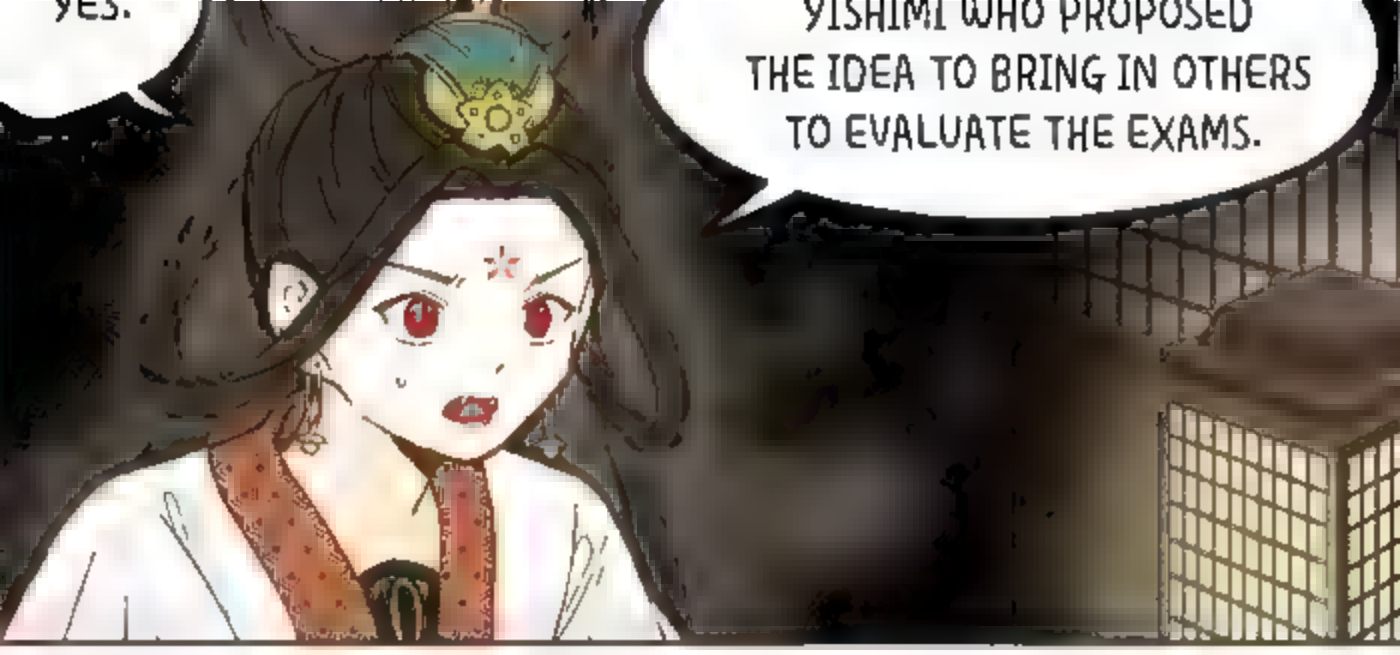
How to become a Dragon

- EPISODE 39 -

WHAT IN THE WORLD...
...POSSESSED YOU ALL TO DO THIS?

YOU SHOULD'VE LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE.
DID YOU GUYS REALLY HAVE TO CREATE SUCH A MESS?!
...
DID YOU KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON, DAMSEOL?

IT WAS ACTUALLY


YES.
YISHIMI WHO PROPOSED THE IDEA TO BRING IN OTHERS TO EVALUATE THE EXAMS.

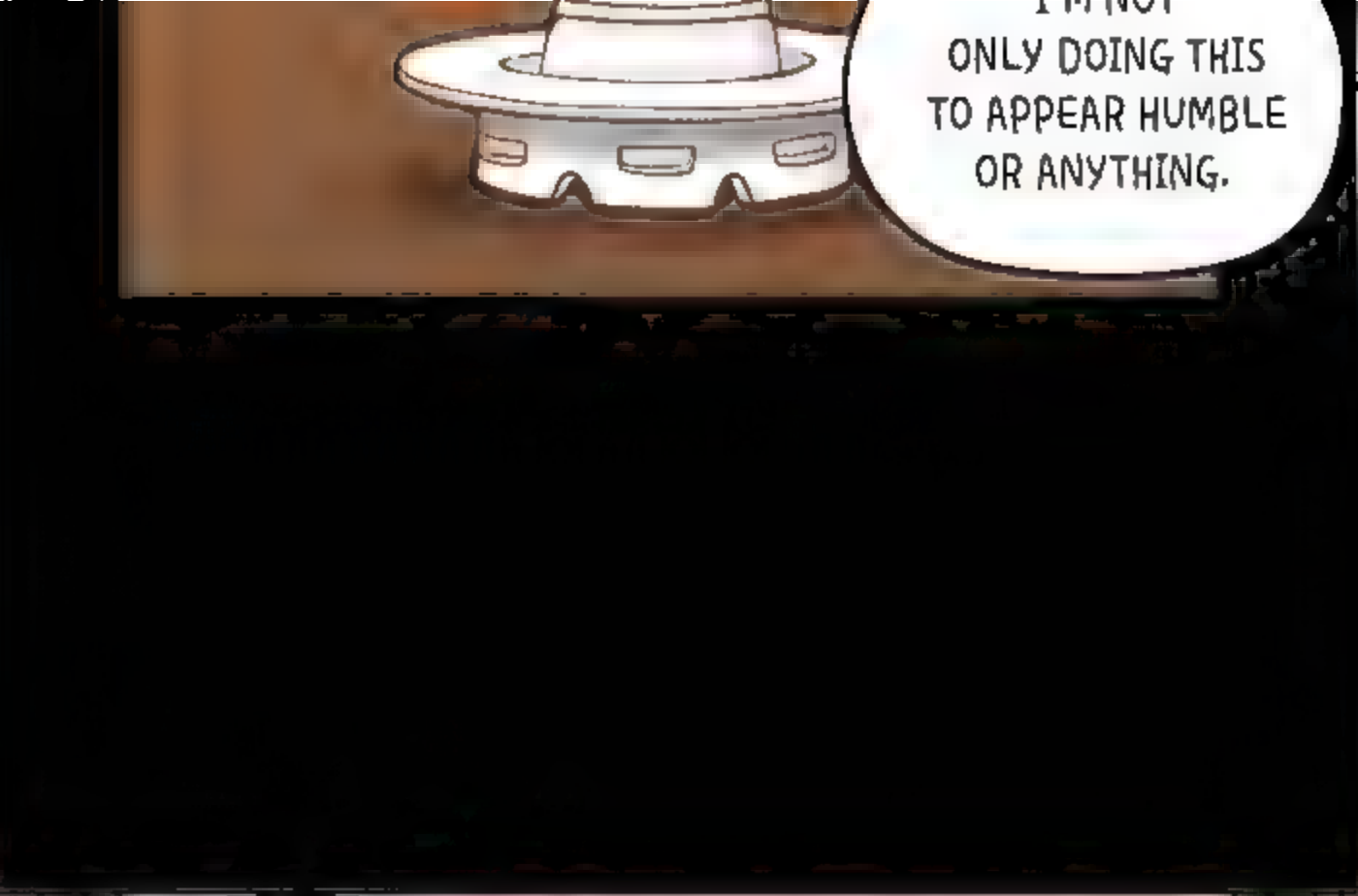
DO YOU MEAN THAT CHEONRYONG HAS ALREADY DECIDED...

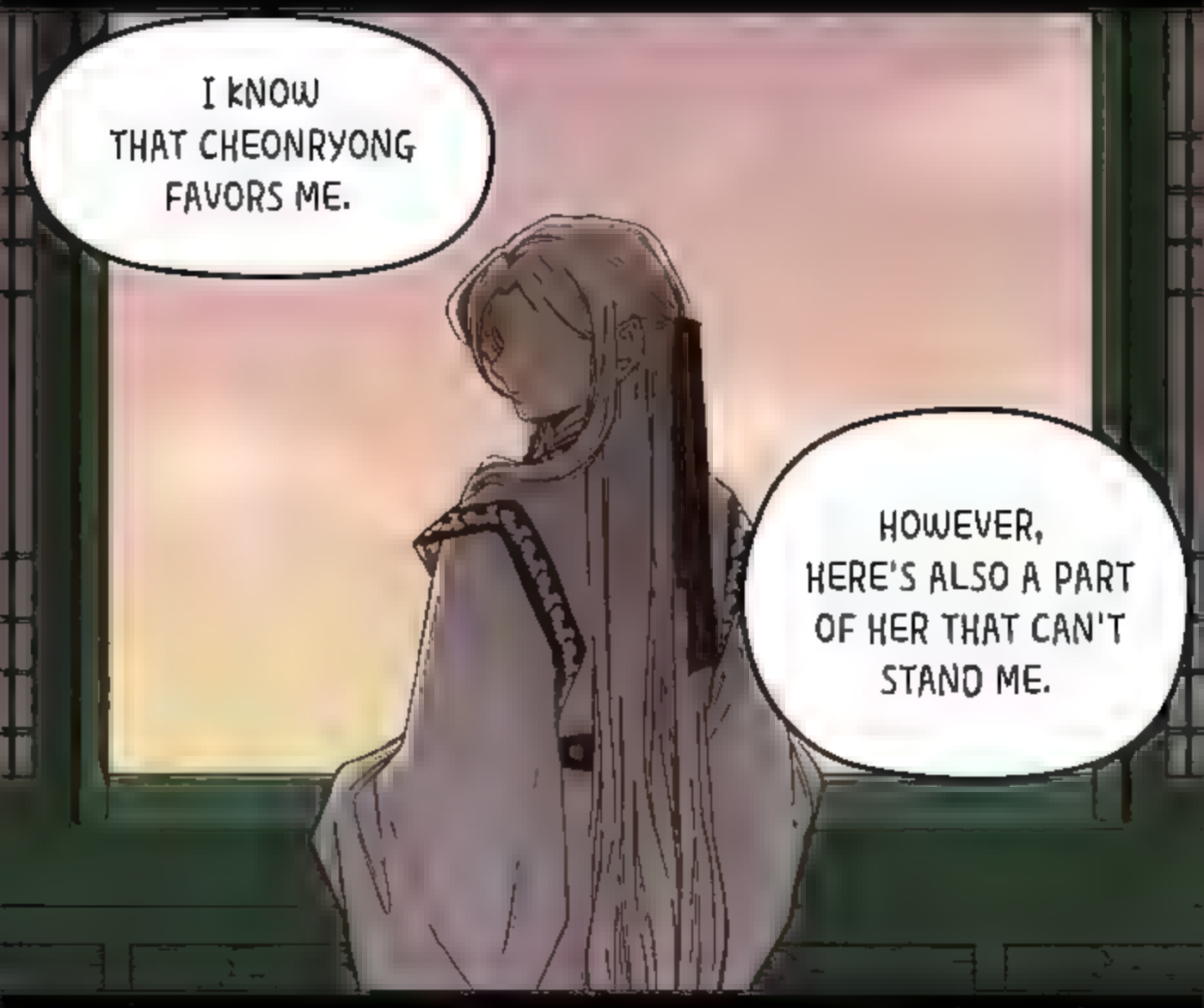
...THAT YOU'D BE THE RULER OF THE NAKDONG RIVER?
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT.
AND I'M SURE THE OTHER IMOOGI WILL THINK THE SAME WAY.

SO THAT'S WHY I JUST ASKED CHEONRYONG TO DESIGNATE EXAMINERS NO ONE WOULD HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT.
JUST LIKE HOW YOU GRADED THE MIDTERM EXAM.
...!
AND HOW DID CHEONRYONG RESPOND TO THAT...?

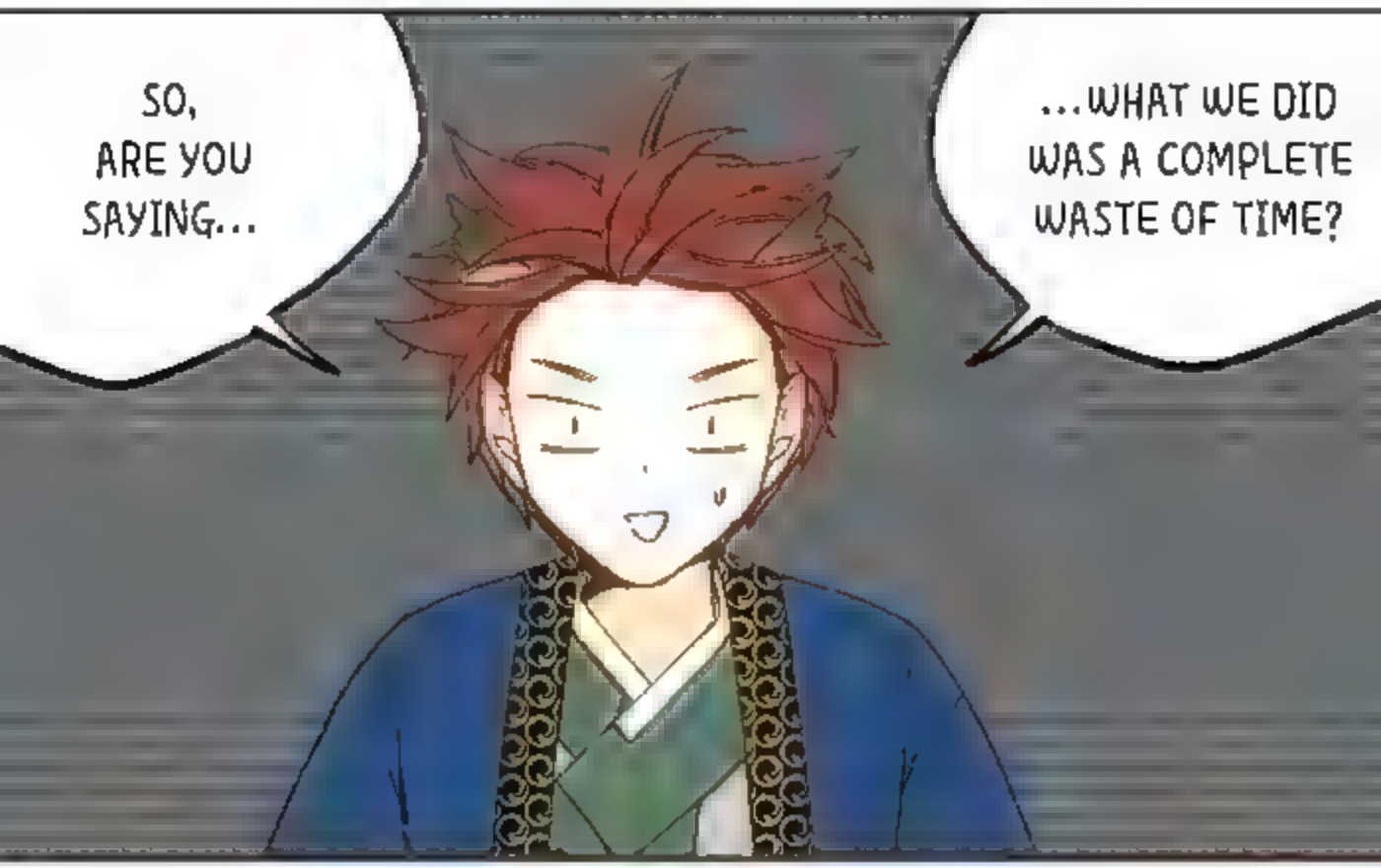
SHE SAID SHE'LL CONSIDER IT.
PARDON ME FOR SAYING THIS...
...BUT WOULDN'T THAT PUT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE?

...
I'M NO DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER IMOOGI-- I TAKE THIS EXAM VERY SERIOUSLY.
I'M NOT


I'M NOT
ONLY DOING THIS
TO APPEAR HUMBLE
OR ANYTHING.

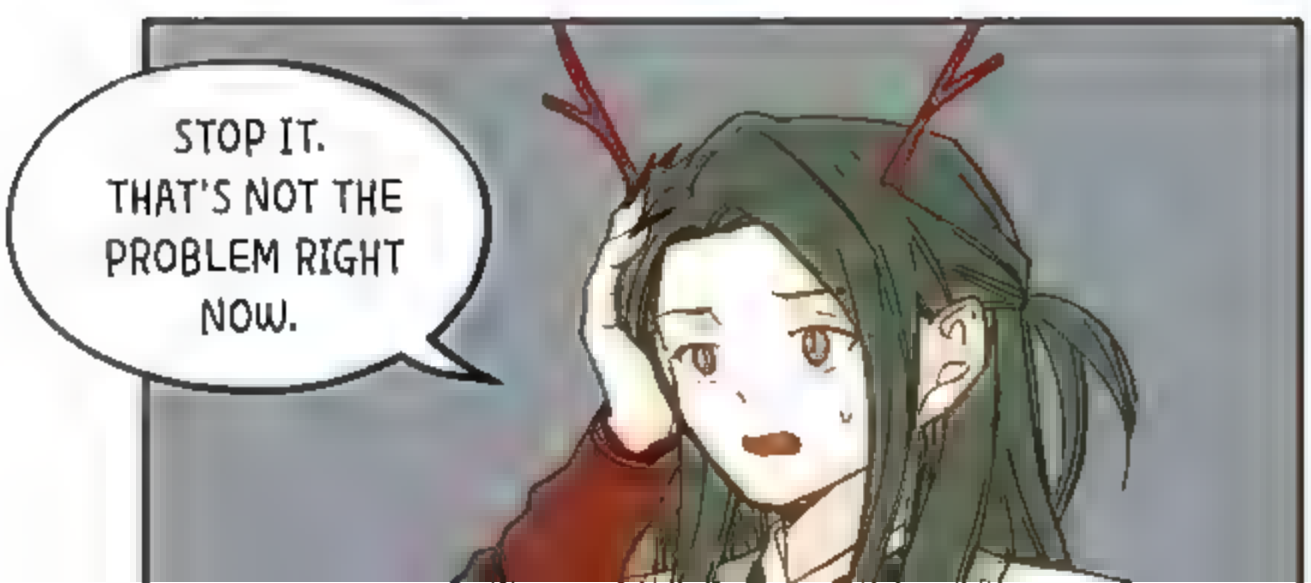

I KNOW
THAT CHEONRYONG
FAVORS ME.
HOWEVER,
HERE'S ALSO A PART
OF HER THAT CAN'T
STAND ME.

SO
I'M DOING THIS
FOR MY OWN
SAKE.

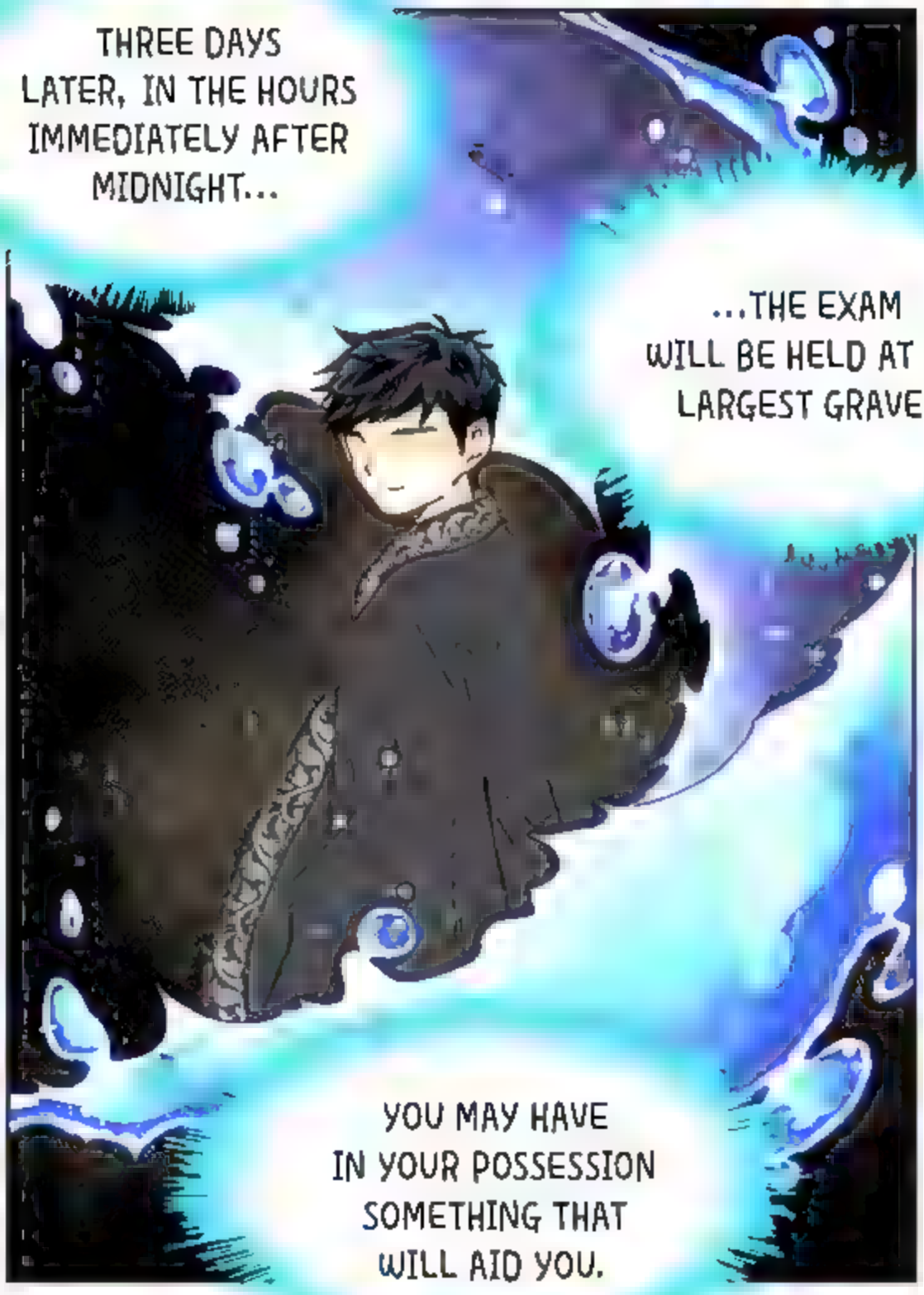


HAVE SOME
DIGNITY AS

YES, YOU IDIOTS!
AN IMOOGI! WHY MUST YOU BE SO RASH...?
WHACK
LIKE YOU WOULDN'T DO THE SAME! I WAS IN NO PLACE TO THINK CLEARLY!


STOP IT. THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM RIGHT NOW.

WE HAVE TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAM.
SO...
...LET'S TALK ABOUT THE TOPIC OF THIS EXAM.

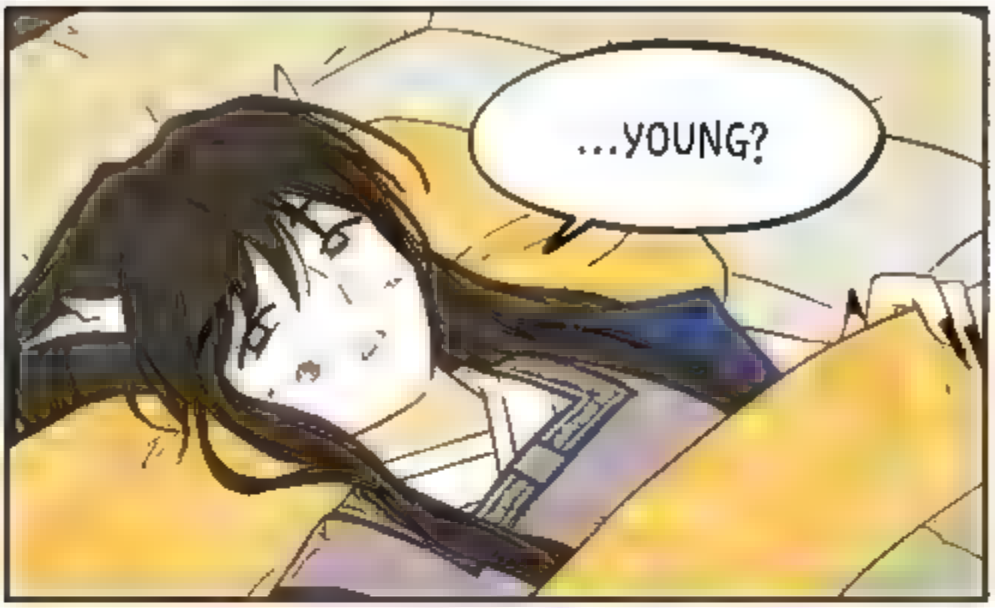

THREE DAYS LATER, IN THE HOURS IMMEDIATELY AFTER MIDNIGHT...
...THE EXAM WILL BE HELD AT MY LARGEST GRAVE.
YOU MAY HAVE IN YOUR POSSESSION SOMETHING THAT WILL AID YOU.

...
HMM...

THREE DAYS LATER,
IN THE HOURS IMMEDIATELY
AFTER MIDNIGHT?
THE LARGEST
GRAVEYARD?

SO HE ONLY ANNOUNCED THE DATE AND LOCATION, AND THE TOPIC IS STILL UNKNOWN.

I THOUGHT THE TWO-DAY DELAY WOULD BE QUITE A DISADVANTAGE...
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S MUCH TO PREPARE FOR...
UGH...


...YOUNG?

BARI...?

HEY!
ARE YOU OKAY?
HMM?
RUSTLE

...
W-WHAT'S WRONG?
DOES IT HURT?
FLINCH
DAKKE

I-I'M SORRY.
BRUSH
BRUSH
MY SCALE GOT ON YOUR CLOTHES...

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU HATE SEEING AS AN IMOOGI...
BRUSH
BRUSH
...BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY OPTION I HAD.

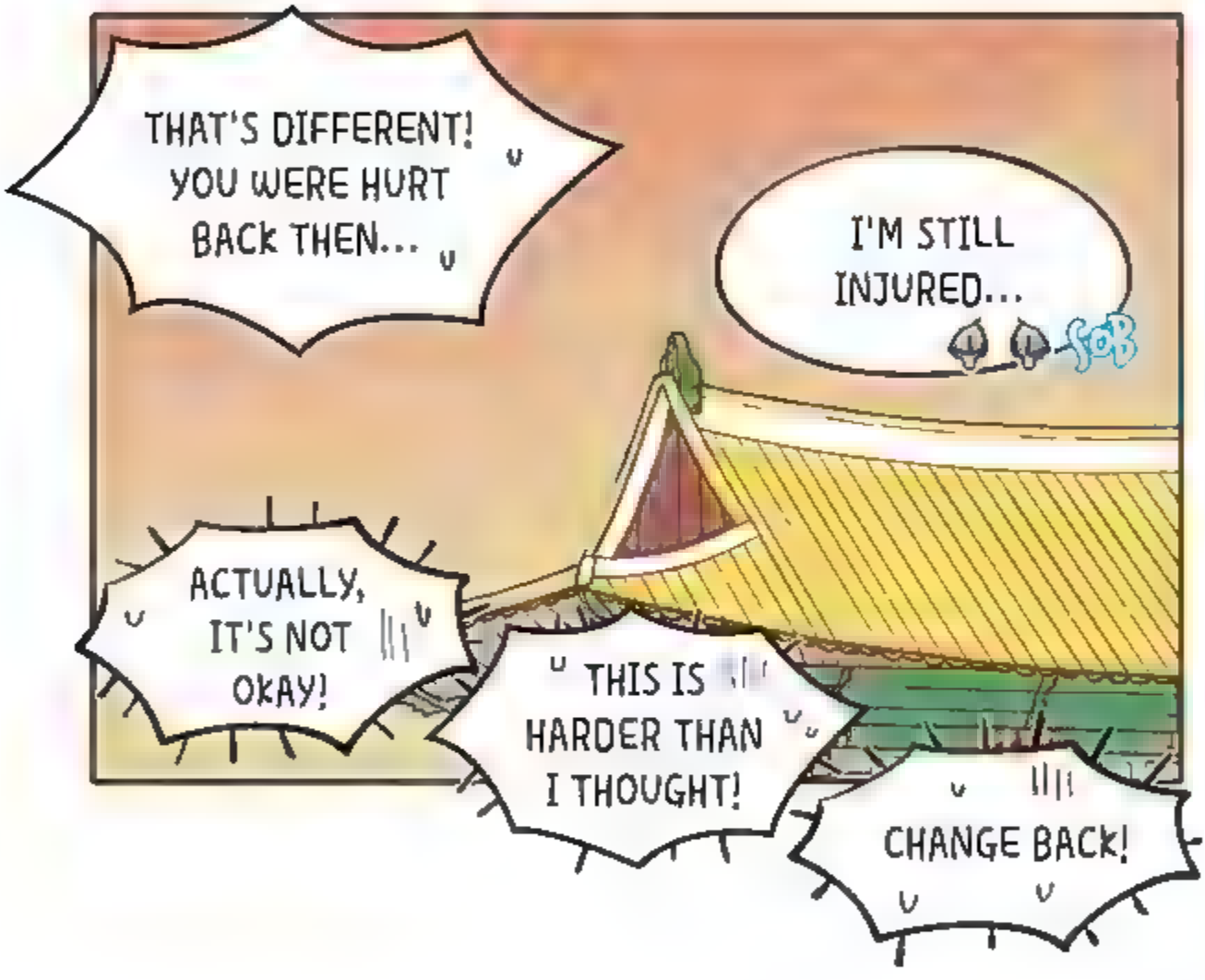
DON'T WORRY.
I WAS TOTALLY FINE WITH IT.

REALLY?
YOU'RE OKAY EVEN WHEN I'M IN THAT FORM?

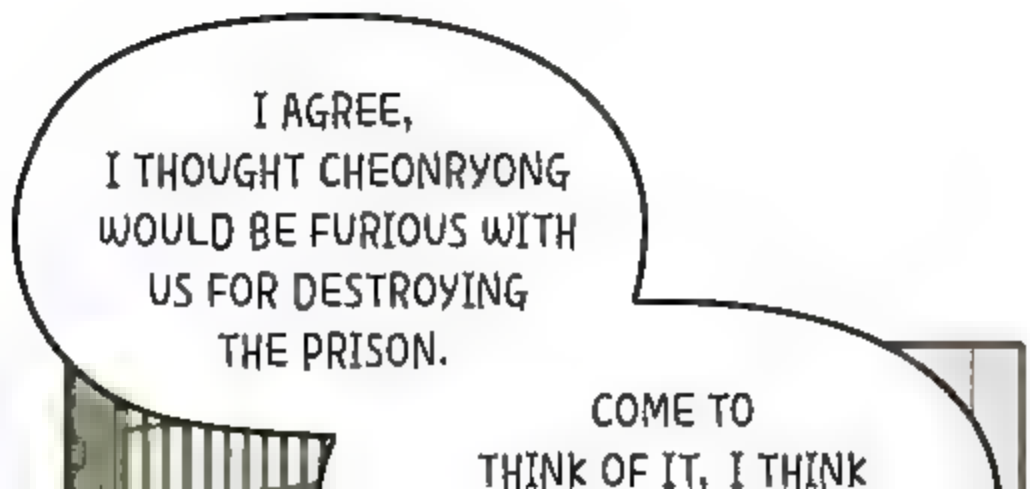
YEAH, IT WAS SUCH AN URGENT SITUATION...
...THAT I DIDN'T EVEN MIND HOLDING ONTO YOUR HEAD.
YOUNG...!
TOUCHED
YOU WOULD DO THAT FOR ME?
PRRP DRRP
!!

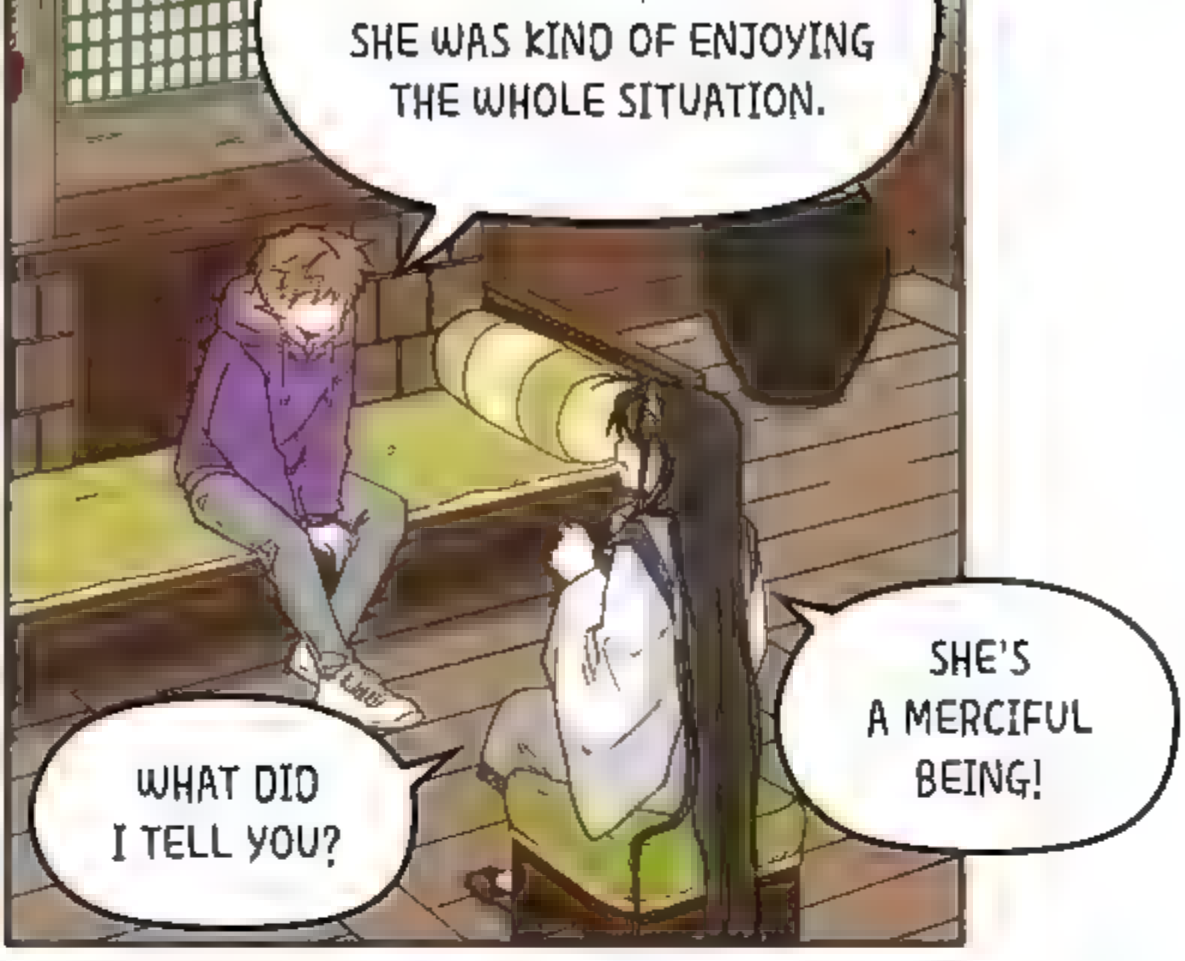
POOF
EEEK
I'M SO TOUCHED!

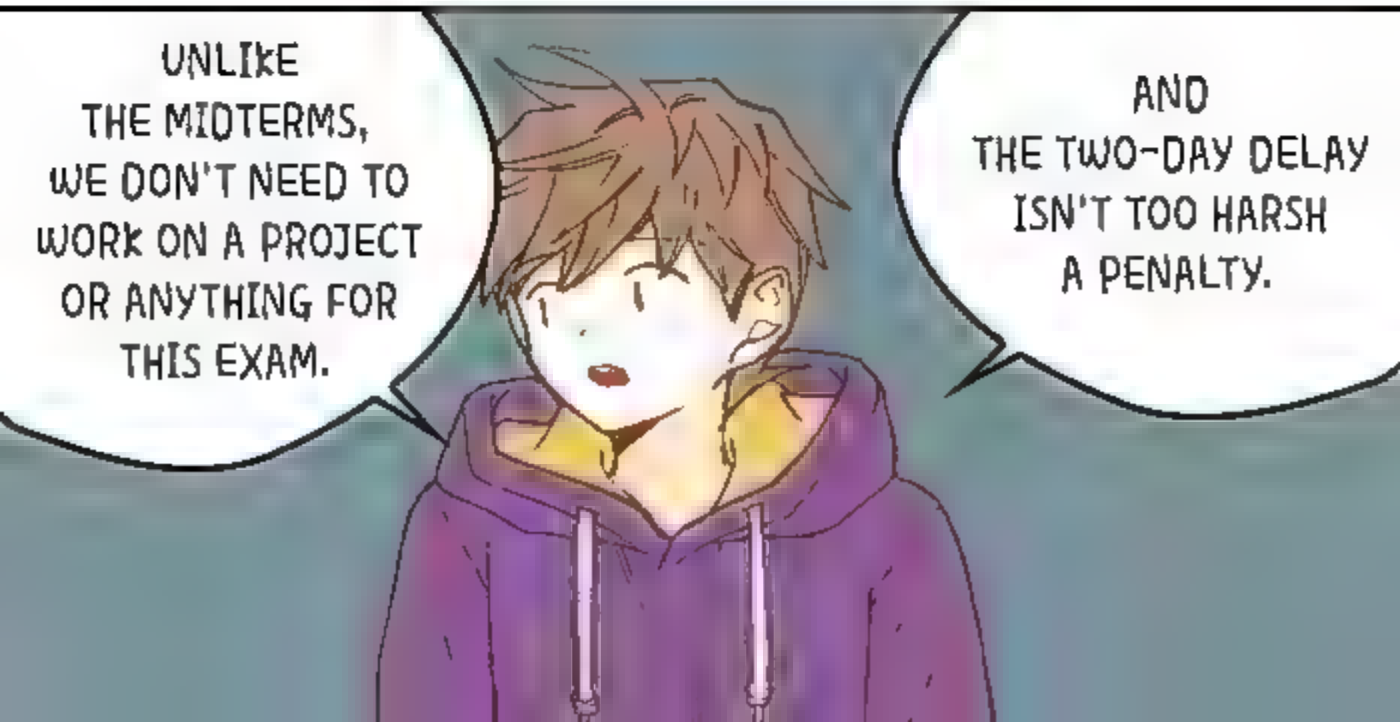
HEY!!
I-IF YOU'RE GOING TO TRANSFORM, AT LEAST LET ME KNOW BEFOREHAND!
?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE OKAY?


THAT'S DIFFERENT! YOU WERE HURT BACK THEN...
I'M STILL INJURED...
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT OKAY!
THIS IS HARDER THAN I THOUGHT!
CHANGE BACK!

WELL,
LIFE IS FULL OF
SURPRISES!
I'M GLAD
EVERYTHING
TURNED OUT
WELL.


I AGREE,
I THOUGHT CHEONRYONG
WOULD BE FURIOUS WITH
US FOR DESTROYING
THE PRISON.
COME TO
THINK OF IT, I THINK


SHE WAS KIND OF ENJOYING THE WHOLE SITUATION.
SHE'S A MERCIFUL BEING!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

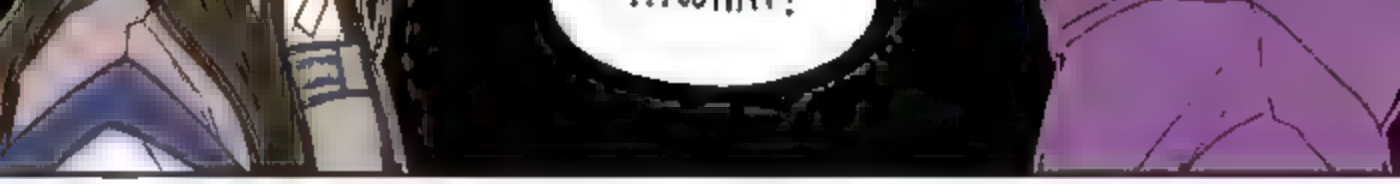

UNLIKE THE MIDTERMS, WE DON'T NEED TO WORK ON A PROJECT OR ANYTHING FOR THIS EXAM.
AND THE TWO-DAY DELAY ISN'T TOO HARSH A PENALTY.

IF WE FOCUS ON YOUR RECOVERY FOR THE REMAINING TIME, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE EXAM.
NOD
NOD
YEP, YEP!

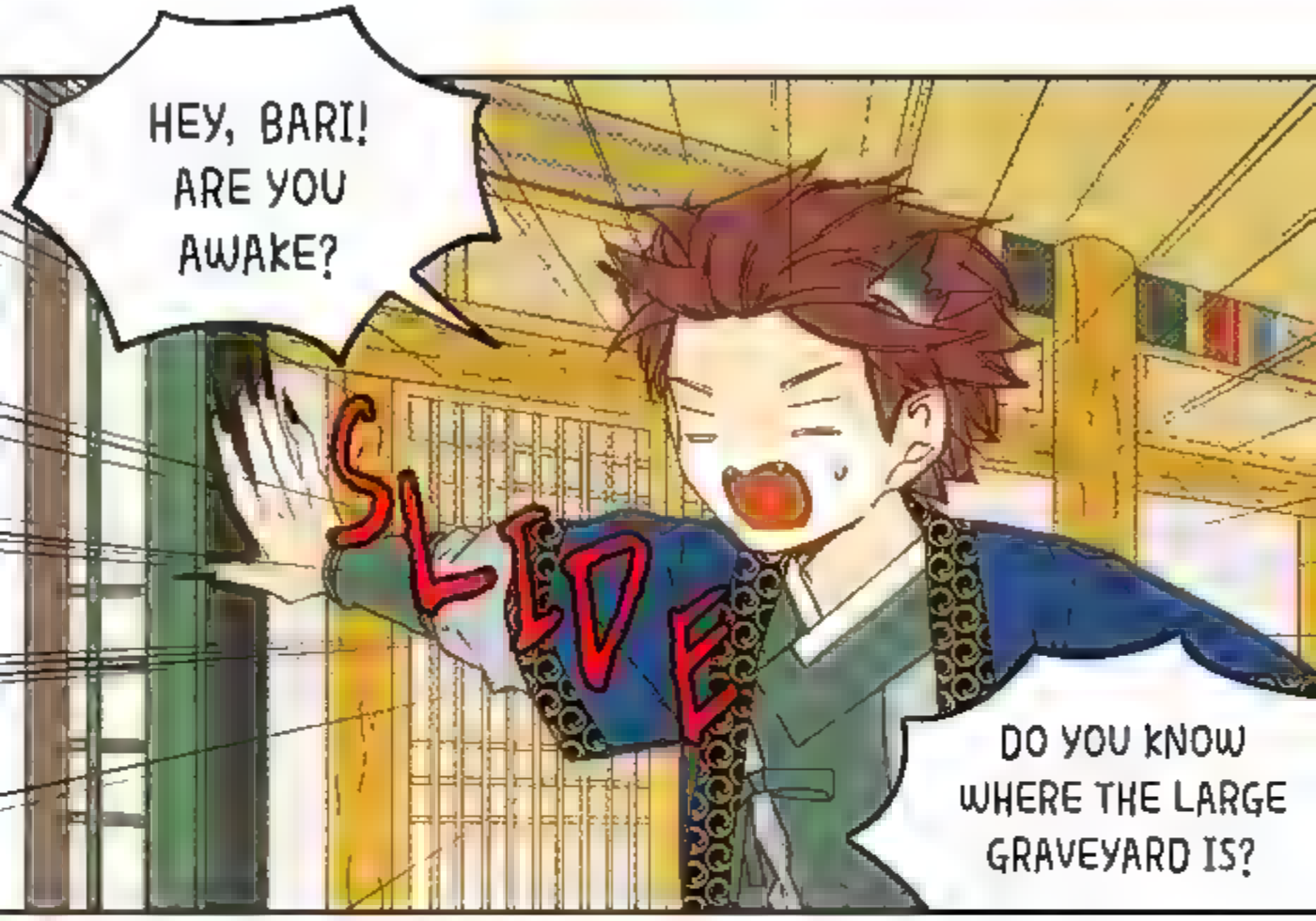
BY THE WAY,

EXAMINATION TAKING PLACE AT...?
A LARGE GRAVEYARD.
A LARGE GRAVEYARD?
YES.

...WHERE IS THAT?
WHAT?



UM, I THOUGHT THAT WAS SOME KIND OF SECRET CODE THAT ALL THE IMOOGI UNDERSTOOD!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT BEFORE...
WAIT, ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW, BY ANY CHANCE?

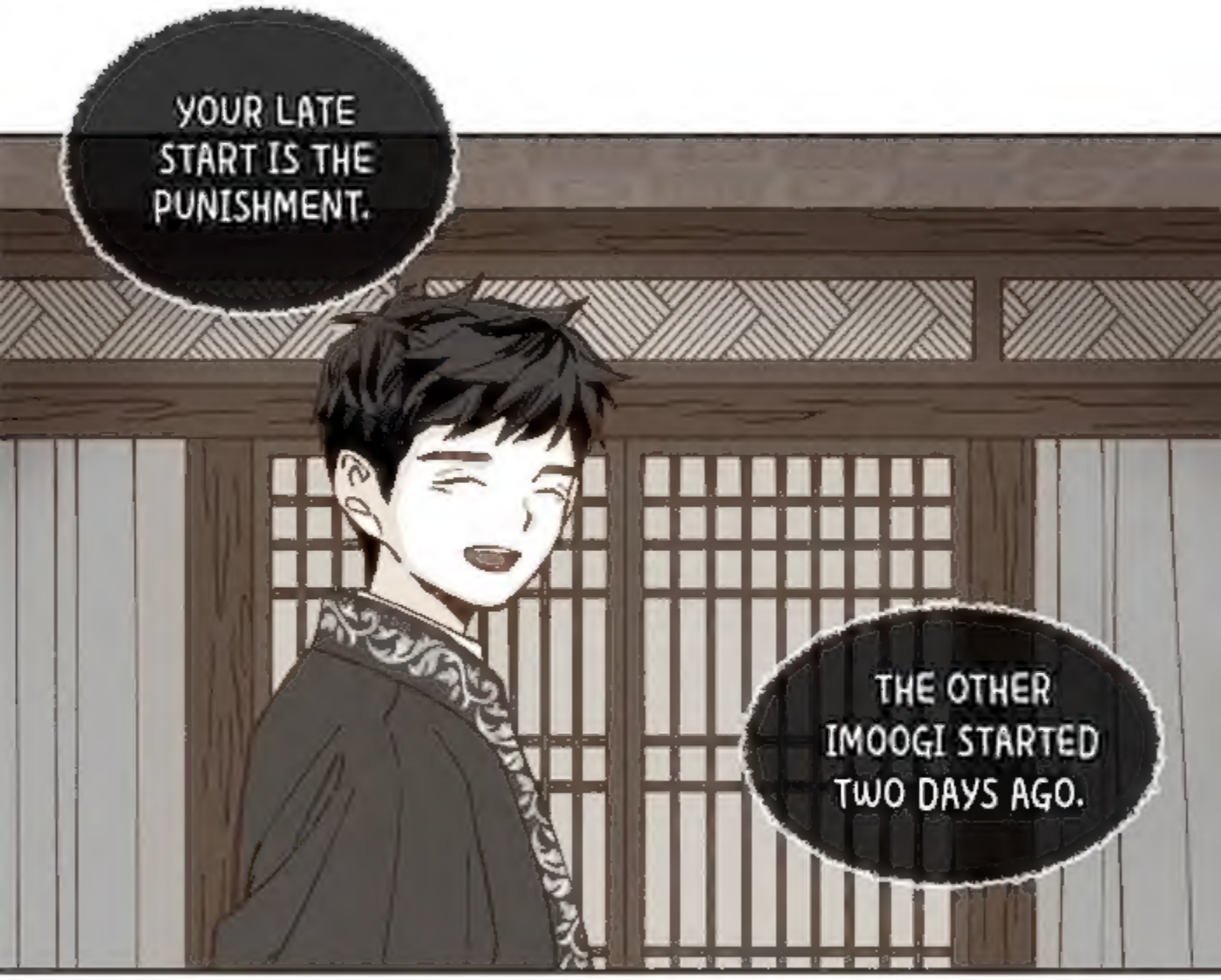

HEY, BARI! ARE YOU AWAKE?
SLIDE
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE LARGE GRAVEYARD IS?

YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW EITHER?
UH... NO...

HOLD ON, IS THE DRAGON KING STILL HERE?
NO ONE KNOWS?
...
Y-YOU WANT TO ASK THE DRAGON

KING?

DON'T BE RECKLESS, YOU FOOL!



FINDING OUR WAY TO THE SITE OF THE EXAM...

...IS PART OF
THE FIRST TEST.